PROMETHEA

Book 4

Alan Moore ~ Williams ~ Hollingsworth

Promethea

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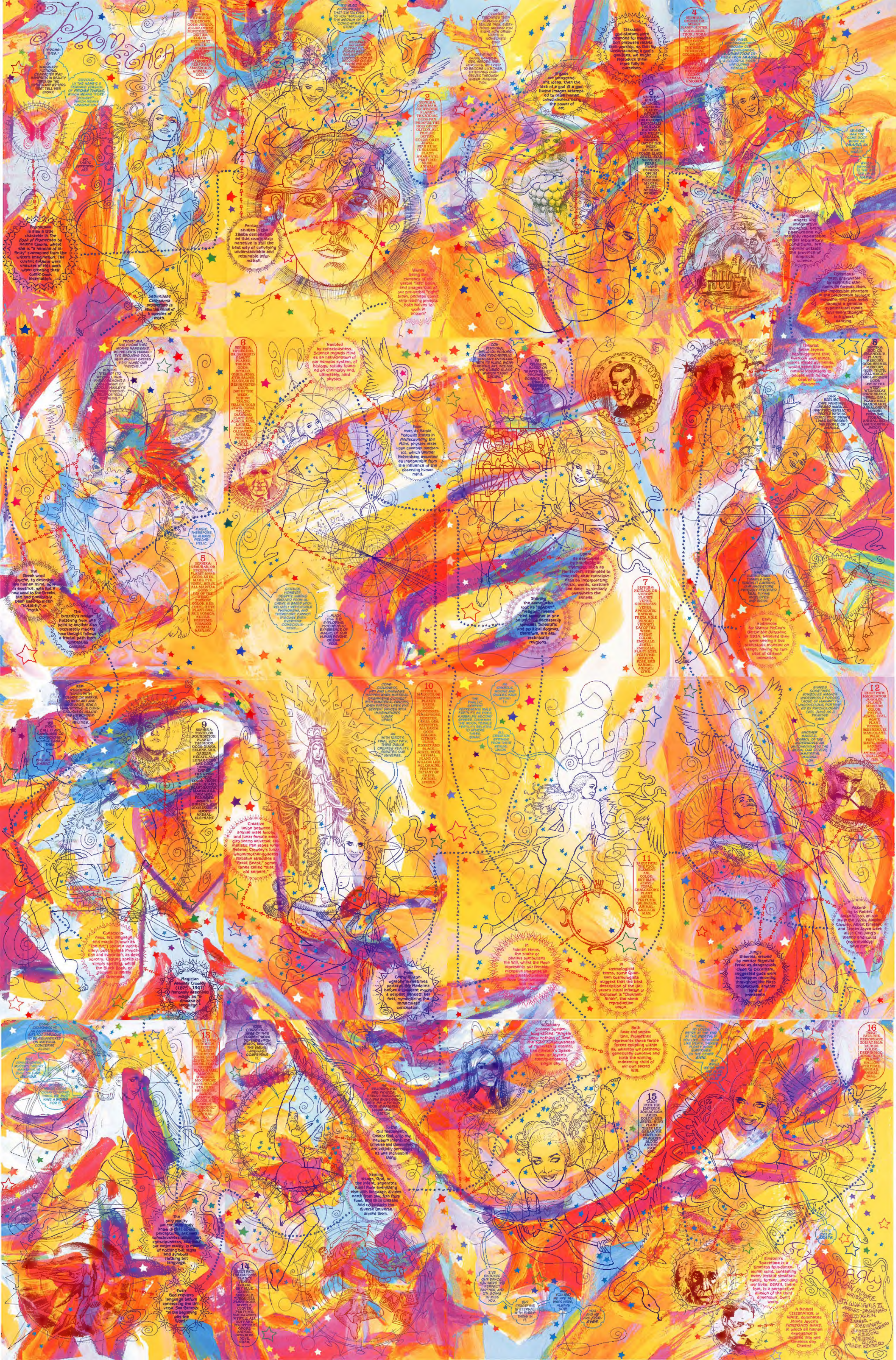
A WORD ABOUT THIS ISSUE.

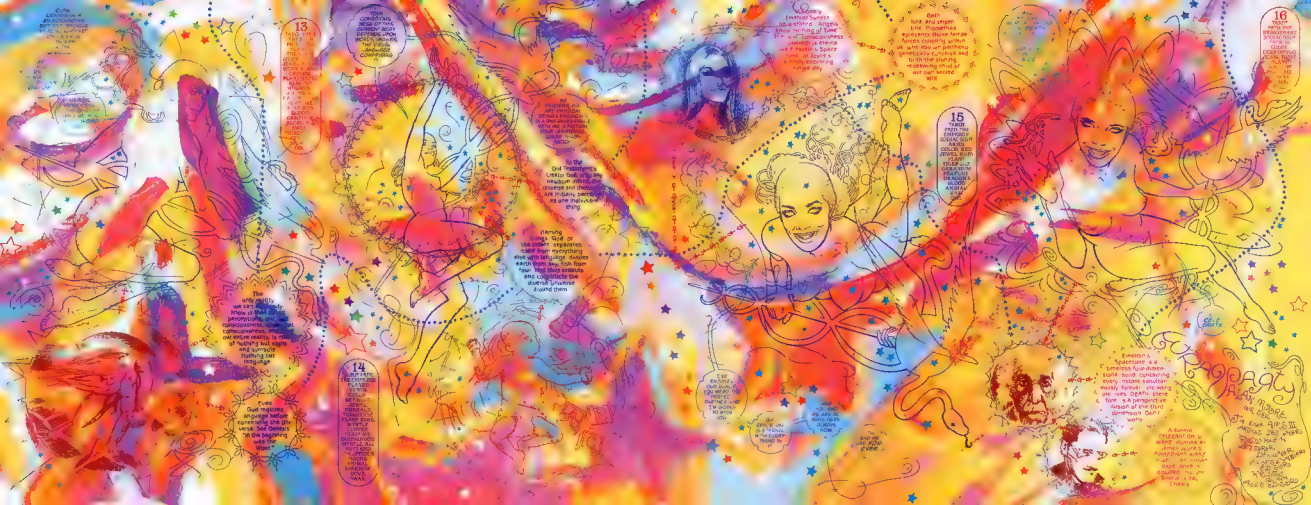
This final issue of PROMETHEA has several notable differences from previous ones. First off, a number of pages are upside down, we know. Secondly, the story is constructed so you can read it from front to back, yes, even the upside down pages, or it can be "unfolded" into a giant double-sided poster and read in a completely different order. Since this is a comic book that has been cut at the printer we had to cheat a little–you can't actually unfold the book but you can carefully pull it apart and, using the numbers on each page as a guide (it will be four tiers of four pages), tape it all together to form the poster. Additionally, once the poster is completed, you will see two lovely images of Promethea only visible in this form.

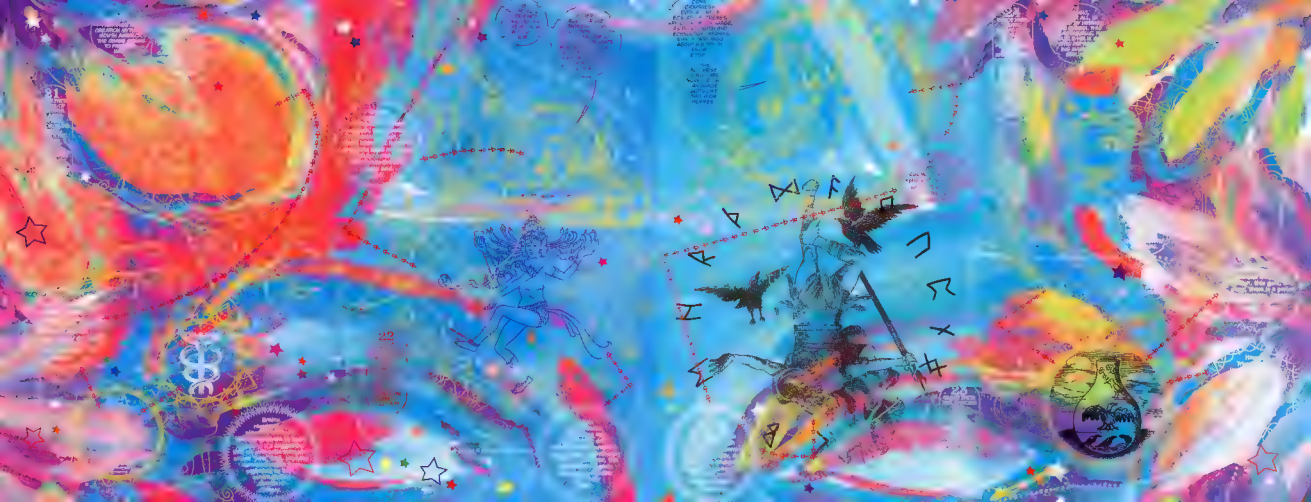

PROMETHEA

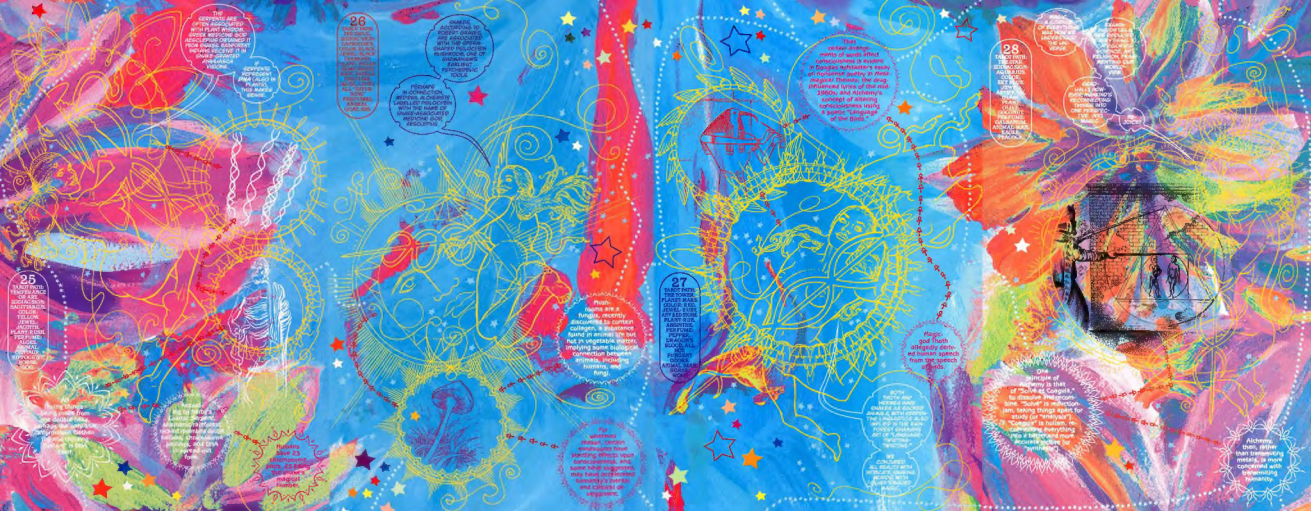
Promethea
"PROMETHEA."
AN IMAGINARY FICTIONAL CHARACTER WHO MANIFESTS IN REALITY THROUGH THE ARTISTS AND WRITERS THAT TELL HER STORY.
OBVIOUSLY THE NAME'S A FEMININE VERSION OF PROMETHEUS, WHICH MEANS "FORETHOUGHT"... WHICH MEANS "IMAGINATION."
SO THAT'S APPROPRIATE.
1 SEPHIRA KETHER OR THE CROWN. GODS: JEHOVA, ALLAH, OTHER MONOTHEISTIC DEITIES. COLOR: BRILLIANT WHITE. JEWEL: DIAMOND. ALMOND. PERFUME: AMBERGRIS. ANIMAL: GOD.
IT'S ALSO APPROPRIATE THAT I'M TALKING TO YOU THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF A COMIC-STRIP STORY.
2 SEPHIRA CHOKMAH, OR WISDOM. PLANET: THE ZODIAC. GODS: PAN, PRIAPUS, THE HOLY GHOST, GLICON, ALL PHALLIC DEITIES. COLOR: GREY. JEWEL: STAR RUBY, TURQUOISE. PLANT: AMARANTH. PERFUME: MUSK. ANIMAL: MAN.
WE CREATED FANTASIES THEN STRUGGLED TO REALIZE THEM. EVERYTHING AROUND YOU RIGHT NOW ORIGINATED IN SOMEONE'S MIND.
CREATING GODS, GODDESSES, HEROES AND HEROINES, WE TRIED TO BECOME LIKE THEM, EXTENDING OURSELVES THROUGH SHEER IMAGINATION.
If gods are transcendent ideas, then the idea of a god IS a god. Divine images attempted to raise human consciousness using the power of art.
Classical god-statues were intended for purposes rather than worship, so that by understanding a god's qualities, we might reproduce them more fully in ourselves.
3 SEPHIRA BINAH, OR UNDERSTANDING. PLANET: SATURN. GODDESSES: THE MADONNA, ESPECIALLY THE BLACK MADONNA, ISIS, HECATE, BABALON, SELENE. DAY OF THE WEEK: SATURDAY. COLOR: BLACK. JEWEL: STAR SAPPHIRE, PEARL. PLANT: CYPRESS, OPIUM POPPY. PERFUME: MYRRH, CIVET. ANIMAL: WOMAN.
4 SEPHIRA CHESED OR MERCY. PLANET: JUPITER. GODS: ZEUS, THOR, INDRA AND OTHER ANIMAL: UNICORN.
IMAGINATION DERIVES FROM IMAGE, A COLORFUL FORM UNFOLDING MENTALLY.
IMAGE HAS THE SAME ROOT WORD AS IMAGO, AN ADULT INSECT.
WHICH BRINGS US TO THE NAME.
Promethea is also a title character in The Book of Promethea by Helene Cixous, where she is "a heroine of infinity" summoned from the writer's imagination. The current authors were unaware of this work when creating their comic-book incarnation.
Pentagon studies in the 1980s demonstrated that comic strip narrative is still the best way of conveying understandable and retainable information.
Saturniidae Callosamia promethea is also the name of a species of moth.
Words being the currency of our verbal "left" brain and images that of our pre-verbal "right" brain, perhaps comic strip reading prompts both halves to work in unison?
Both angels and imaginative thoughts, being phenomena not reliably repeatable under laboratory conditions, are equally outside the province of empirical science.
Consciousness, unprovable by scientific standards, is forever, then, the impossible phantom in the predictable biologic machine, and your every thought a genuine supernatural event. Your every thought is a ghost, dancing.

PROMETHEA, THE PROMETHEA MOTH'S NAMESAKE, REPRESENTS HUMANITY'S EVOLVING SOUL, WHAT ANCIENT GREEKS FIRST NAMED OUR "PSYCHE."
6 SEPHIRA: TIPHERETH OR HARMONY; BEAUTY. PLANET: THE SUN. GODS: APOLLO, OSIRIS, JESUS, ATTIS, BALDER, ALL SOLAR OR RESURRECTED GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: SUNDAY. COLOR: YELLOW/GOLD. JEWEL: TOPAZ, YELLOW DIAMOND. PLANT: BAY, ACACIA, VINE, LAUREL. PERFUME: OLIBANUM. ANIMAL: PHOENIX, LION, CHILD.
Troubled by consciousness, Science regards Mind as an hallucination of our nervous system, of biology, solidly founded on chemistry and, ultimately, hard physics.
However, as Harold Morowitz states in Rediscovering the Mind, physics rests upon quantum mechanics, which Werner Heisenberg asserted as inseparable from the influence of the observing human mind.
CONVENTIONAL RELIGION ECHOES THIS PSYCHEDELIC SENSORY OVERLOAD WITH ITS MUSIC, INCANTATIONS, ART, INCENSE AND STAINED GLASS WINDOW "LIGHT SHOWS."
CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI
Theorist Julian Jaynes has suggested that even our own minds, voices inside our heads, would seem like supernatural visitations to people with no concept of consciousness.
OUR EARLIEST CAVE PAINTINGS SEEMED MAGICAL AND PSYCHEDELIC TO PEOPLE WITH NO CONCEPT OF DRAWN LINES REPRESENTING PEOPLE OR ANIMALS.
SEPHIRA: HOD, OR SPLENDOUR. PLANET: MERCURY. GODS: HERMES, MERCURY, ODIN, THOTH, ALL MAGIC AND LANGUAGE GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: WEDNESDAY. COLOR: ORANGE. JEWEL: OPAL. PLANT: MOLY (MANDRAKE), ANHALONIUM LEWINII. PERFUME: STORAX. ANIMAL: HERMAPHRODITE, JACKAL.
MAGIC, THEREFORE, IS ALWAYS PSYCHEDELIC.
The Greek word psyche, to describe the human mind, soul or essence, was not a new word to the Greeks, but had previously been used to mean "butterfly" or "moth."
The butterfly's random fluttering from one point to another also accurately models how thought follows a fractal path from concept to concept.
5 SEPHIRA: GEBURAH, OR STRENGTH. PLANET: MARS. GODS: ARES, MARS, TYR, VISHNU, HORUS, ALL MARTIAL GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: TUESDAY. COLOR: RED. JEWEL: RUBY. PLANT: OAK, NUX VOMICA, NETTLE. PERFUME: TOBACCO. ANIMAL: BASILISK.
SCIENCE, HOWEVER, DESPITE HAVING EVOLVED FROM ALCHEMY, IS BASED UPON RELIABLY REPEATABLE PHENOMENA AND THEREFORE CANNOT DISCUSS EVEN EVERYDAY CONSCIOUSNESS...
...MUCH LESS THE EXPLODING, PSYCHEDELIC EXPERIENCE OF MAGIC, OF OUR HUMAN PSYCHE, OF OUR SOUL.
Opera, as developed by practicing alchemists such as Monteverdi, attempted to magically alter consciousness by incorporating music, words, costume and dance to similarly overwhelm the senses.
Scientific and political dogmas, therefore, are also technically religions.
7 SEPHIRA: NETZACH, OR VICTORY. PLANET: VENUS. GODDESSES: VENUS, APHRODITE, HATHOR, FREYA, NIKE (WINGED VICTORY). DAY OF THE WEEK: FRIDAY. COLOR: EMERALD. JEWEL: EMERALD. PLANT: ROSE. PERFUME: BENZOIN, ROSE, RED SANDAL. ANIMAL: LYNX.
Early audiences for Winsor McCay's Gertie the Dinosaur in 1914, believed they were seeing a live prehistoric monster on stage, having no concept of cartoon animation.

REPRESENTING THINGS WITH SOUNDS OR MARKS, AS WITH ART AND LANGUAGE, WAS A WATERSPRING IN CONSCIOUSNESS ALLOWING US WONDERFUL NEW ABILITIES.
WE DIDN'T CALL IT ART, LANGUAGE OR CONSCIOUSNESS BACK THEN.
WAS ALL MAGIC.
9 SEPHIRA: YESOD, OR FOUNDATION. PLANET: THE MOON. GODS: DIANA, SELENE, SHU, GANESA, HECATE, ALL LUNAR GODS AND GODDESSES. DAY OF THE WEEK: MONDAY. COLOR: VIOLET. JEWEL: QUARTZ. PLANT: BANYAN, MANDRAKE, DAMIANA. PERFUME: JASMINE, GINSENG, ALL ODORIFEROUS ROOTS. ANIMAL: ELEPHANT.
CONSCIOUSNESS, ART AND LANGUAGE HAPPEN WHEN MATERIAL ORGANISMS CONNECT WITH IMMATERIAL FANCIES; WHEN EARTHLY LIFE'S DNA SERPENT DANCES WITH IMAGINATION'S LUNAR SPIRIT.
AS WITH TAROT'S FINAL 32ND PATH, THEIR DANCE CREATES REALITY, CREATES OUR UNIVERSE.
10 SEPHIRA: MALKUTH OR THE KINGDOM. PLANET: EARTH. GODS, GODDESSES: PERSEPHONE, DEMETER, CERES, GEB, NEPHTHYS, ALL EARTH GODS. COLORS: CITRINE, OLIVE, RUSSET AND BLACK. JEWEL: ROCK CRYSTAL. PLANT: IVY, WILLOW, LILY, ALL GRAINS. PERFUME: DITTANY OF CRETE. ANIMAL: SPHINX.
THE PHALLIC SERPENT REPRESENTS MALE FERTILITY AS DOES KABBALAH'S SECOND SPHERE, CHOKMAH. THE MOON, FEMALE FERTILITY, RELATES TO SPHERE THREE, BINAH.
ALL CREATION SPRINGS FROM THEIR SEXUAL UNION.
SNAKES SOMETIMES SYMBOLIZE MAGIC'S UNDERWORLD FORCES, THOSE OF HUMANITY'S UNCONSCIOUS, PORTRAYED BY PSYCHOLOGIST CARL JUNG AS A PRIMITIVE CAVE.
ANOTHER MAGICAL SYMBOL OF THE UNDERWORLD OF UNCONSCIOUS IS THE MOON, OUR SILVERY IMMATERIAL IMAGINATION.
12 TAROT PATH: MAGICIAN OR JUGGLER. PLANET: MERCURY. COLOR: PURPLE. JEWEL: OPAL, AGATE. PLANT: VERVAIN, HERB MERCURY, MARJOLANE, PALM. PERFUME: MASTIC, WHITE SANDAL, MACE. ANIMAL: APE, SWALLOW, IBIS.
Creative union between animal male forces and lunar female energies seems universal: animalistic Pan rapes lunar Selene, Crowley's lunar whore/mother-goddess Babalon straddles a "Great Beast," sometimes called "that old serpent."
Consciousness, art, language and magic (known as "The Art") share a vocabulary: poetry uses invocation and evocation, as does sorcery. Casting spells is simply spelling, while the Black Book, or grimoire, is merely a Grammar.
Magician Aleister Crowley (1875–1947) famously described magic as "a disease of language."
Even Catholic iconography sometimes portrays the Madonna before a crescent moon, a serpent beneath her feet, symbolizing the immaculate conception.
In human terms, the snake or phallus symbolizes the Will, whilst the Moon represents our female, receptive imagination. Thus creativity results from union between Will and imagination.
11 TAROT PATH: THE FOOL. ELEMENT: AIR. COLOR: SKY-BLUE. JEWEL: TOPAZ, CHALCEDONY. PLANT: ASPEN. PERFUME: GALBANUM. ANIMAL: EAGLE OR MAN.
In cosmological terms, some Quantum cosmologists suggest that the best description of the Universe's initial inflation or explosion is "Chokmah-Binah", the same reproductive union.
Jung's theories, viewed by mentor Sigmund Freud as dangerously close to Occultism, suggested gods were archetypes recurring throughout the Mass Unconscious, another kind of Immateria.
According to Robert Anton Wilson, on one day in the 1920s, Aleister Crowley, Albert Einstein and James Joyce were all in Carl Jung's Vienna and could (conceivably) have met.



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TRANSMUTING THE ELEMENTS OF AIR, WATER, EARTH, FIRE, SPIRIT, COLOUR, SOUND, JACINTO, PLANETS AND PERFUMES
26
THE TWO PATHS OF THE SERPENT: CATHOLICS & CHRISTIANS FROM RAMSES, RABAHNEE NOMAD ANCESTRY IN ARMAGEDDON
THE SERPENTS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH PLANT WISDOM, ALCHEMY, MEDICINE, KNOWLEDGE OF DEITIES FROM RAMSES, RABAHNEE NOMAD ANCESTRY IN ARMAGEDDON
CONTAINS PSYCHEDELIC PLANT AIDS IN RELIGIOUS RITUALS
CONTAINS PSYCHEDELIC PLANT AIDS IN RELIGIOUS RITUALS
CHANGES ACCORDING TO ROBERT GRAVES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND WESTERN ALCHEMICAL LORE OF ENLIGHTENMENT EVEN INTO MODERN TIMES
FEMININE ARCHETYPAL ASPECTS OF GODDESS, LABELLED PHILOSOPHERS WITH THE NAME OF SNAKE-ASSOCIATED EGYPTIAN GODDESS
Psilocybin mushrooms are a fungus recently discovered to contain psilocybin, a substance found in animals but not in vegetable matter, implying some biological connection between humans and fungi.
27
SUBSTANCES FOR TOWNSHIP OF THE GODS: DRUGS & HERBS, JEWELS, SUBSTANCES, ELEMENTS, ASSORTED PERFUMES, ANIMALS, SPECIES, SACRIFICES, BLOOD, BONES, PLANTS, ANIMAL SKIN, WOOD
Alcohol, good fruits ambiguously sacred, no human sacrifices from ritual records
28
SOLSTICE: ANCIENT CELEBRATIONS, ASCENSION, BIRTH, DEATH, RESURRECTION, SACRIFICES, RITUALS, MYTHS, LEGENDS, ORIGINS, ANCIENT ROMAN, GREEK, EGYPTIAN, CELTIC, NORSE, ANCIENT MAYAN, FRENCH, ETC.
Alchemy, then, deals more than transmuting metals, is more concerned with transmuting humanity.

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JIM LEE Editoral Director JOHN NEE VP–Business Development SCOTT DUNBIER Executive Editor

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